LOCHMEDE

Vol. I. WINTER PARK, FLORIDA, FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 1887. No. 8.

WHAT IS LIFE.

"Life is hope, joy, love and beauty,"
Sang the maiden young and fair,
Tossing back the shining masses
Of her unbound, silken hair.

"Life is checkered, shade and sunshine,"
Sighed the matron graver grown,
Kneeling down to scatter flowers
O'er the grave of her first-born.

Calmly said the white-haired woman:
"Life, with all its life and beauty,
All its sunshine, all its shadow,
Life, in simple brief, is *duty*."

—*Jacksonville News-Herald.*

ROLLINS COLLEGE.

The pride of Winter Park, beyond her fine hotels, her beautiful homes, and her present highly intelligent and refined population, is her infant college. Through this she aspires to become the natural center of the educating, refining and christianizing influences and forces of the State. By nourishing and stimulating this vigorous young tree of knowledge, until its branches extend their kindly shade over all the youth of our State, and its roots reach and draw life from the hearts of all its people, she may well hope for an immortal fame as the *alma mater*, to whom the now rising generation and all those which are to follow will look with loving gratitude, as the fountain head of the new civilization which they will surely learn to look upon as their chief possession. This is a high aim, and one which may well take the lead in the minds of her people as a pearl of great price which is entrusted to their keeping, and the preservation of whose luster, and the enrichment of whose setting, may honorably and profitably engage their best thought and endeavor, while they lose no opportunity to widen and extend and make inviting and attractive the avenues by which the youth of our State may come to seek inspiration here.

Such aims and hopes have become at once the pride and pleasure as well as the source of a rich reward to the many towns in other parts of the country, which under similar conditions have become the centers of learning in their respective States, and such were the aims and hopes of those who gave the first impulse to this promising movement in favor of higher education in Florida. With such aims and hopes, too, it was warmly taken up by many others, foremost among whom were the founders of our town, who also furnished the site and the corner stone of the material edifice which was necessary to the fulfillment of the plans of the first movers, and upon which so good a beginning has been made. In joining such a movement we may be sure not only that the results of our efforts will be satisfactory to ourselves, but also that it will be the surest means we could adopt to make our town the natural choice of a refined and intelligent class of people, whom we shall be proud and happy to welcome, and among whom it will be a pleasure to live.

We propose now to give a brief outline of the history of this educational movement, and next week to give an account of the actual results attained and the facilities for study which are now offered. At the first annual meeting of the General Congregational Association of Florida a communication was read from Miss L. A. Cross, principal of the Daytona Institute for Young Women, proposing the founding of a college at that place, and a committee was appointed to take the matter under consideration. Considerable interest was manifested, and at the following meeting, in January, 1885, a paper was presented by Rev. E. P. Hooker, D. D., now president of the College, which caused the already swelling bud to burst and display the full opened flower, which soon set the now rapidly ripening fruit, whose development we are watching with so much interest and pride.

Under the title of the Mission of Congregationalism in Florida, Dr. Hooker showed his associates in that faith its peculiar fitness to take the lead in a general popular religious movement, on account of its free democratic form of organization and elasticity in adapting itself to unessential details of personal belief. He then recalled to their minds the establishment of Harvard College in Massachusetts, Yale in Connecticut, and afterwards Williams and Amherst in Massachusetts, Dartmouth in New Hampshire, Bowdoin in Maine, Middlebury in Vermont, Oberlin in Ohio, Beloit and Ripon in Wisconsin, Grinnell in Iowa, and the female colleges of Mt. Holyoke, Smith and Wellesley in Massachusetts, as evidences of the interest of their people in the cause of education, and the rich results to be expected from a similar movement here, showing at the same time the wide field open to them and the urgent need of its cultivation.

The suggestions of Dr. Hooker were referred to a committee, which reported in favor of taking immediate steps towards the founding of a college. A second committee was appointed to receive propositions from various places in the way of inducements for the location of the college, and so prompt was the response, that within three months a special meeting of the Association was called to consider the various propositions, and to visit the several sites proposed. Mt. Dora, Winter Park and Orange City were visited and their claims as well as those of several other places were discussed, and it was finally decided to accept the proposals from Winter Park, and locate the college there.

The Winter Park Company gave the beautiful site on which the buildings stand, and Mr. A. W. Rollins, of Chicago from whom the college takes its name, headed the list of subscriptions to its endowment with the sum of $50,000, to which others, many of them members of the Company and indentified with the founding and growth of our town, added the further sum of $64,180. This has since been still further increased, until the total contributions amount to over

$200,000. What has been accomplished with this money will be seen when we present next week a view of the four neat buildings erected, and give an outline of the courses of study and the facilities of all kinds offered to students. The whole of the above sum is not immediately available, and so, while much has been done, much yet remains which those so disposed may assist the college to the accomplishment of, with the assurance of their bounty being applied under the best possible guaranty of a useful result. Even if the whole sum above mentioned were now available it would be but a small beginning of the endowment which such an institution demands in order to fully accomplish its mission. Not only will money be required for more and larger buildings, apparatus of instruction, provision for athletic exercises, etc., but the endowments of professorships and scholarships, such as form such an important part of the outfit of older colleges, are as yet entirely untouched, and are worthy the earnest consideration of all disposed to lend a helping hand. That all forces may be united in the establishment upon the foundation already so well laid of a strong and efficient institution of learning is the earnest wish not only of those immediately concerned in the movement thus far, but equally of all friends of thorough education for our children. This is not a local undertaking, simply designed to boom the town—the town is amply able to take care of itself—but fortunately for the town it contained at the time the College was proposed a number of public spirited men, who appreciated the object and came forward with so generous a list of subscriptions, that they were rewarded with the location of the College, which they would have been glad to help endow in the interest of education had it been located elsewhere.

It is to be noted finally that although the movement took its rise in the Congregational Association, the proposal from the first was to establish a "Christian college," not a sectarian one, and in point of fact several denominations are represented on the Board of Trustees. The only religious requirement for membership either of the Board or the Faculty is membership in *some* evangelical Christian church.

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MISSING

If Animals Can be Acclimated Why Not Plants?

It seems to me that those who claim that plants cannot be acclimated take untenable ground in direct opposition to the largely accepted Darwinian theory of natural selection, or the survival of the fittest. If it can be proven that plants cannot be acclimated, will not the same arguments prove the same with regard to animals and man, in which case each would be immediately limited to its native original habitat?

Plants may not be able to accommodate themselves to as speedily extended a range of environment as man, but is it not a fact that both naturally tend to accommodate themselves to the changes of their conditions? If these changes are too extreme both perish, but if the change is made gradually from generation to generation, it seems reasonable to believe that it can be accomplished in the one case as well as in the other. The causes of failure, it seems to me, are to be found in the haste with which the changes are attempted to be made rather than in their impossibility. The history of fruits and plants seems to show that these acclimatizing changes have been made during the progress of man's history. That which has been done may be done again and again.

Experiments that scientists have made in the growth of bacilli prove that by gradual changes the descendants of latter generations thrive in temperatures that would have been fatal to their progenators a number of generations removed. They have adapted themselves to their environment. As the basic principal of all forms of life is essentially the same, it is evident that the diverse forms and characteristics of life are due to the variations in the surroundings and not to the inherent life principle that is always developing in the highest degree possible, consistent with its surroundings, and continually attempting to adapt itself to circumstances. The only requisite seems to be that the changes be so gradual that the strain shall not be too great upon any one generation be it of plant or animal. Experiments in acclimatization should therefore be encouraged. We may not meet with as great a degree of success as we may desire, because of the brevity of human life, but it may be accorded to later generations of our descendants, and doubtless will be. We should live not for ourselves alone but for the future as well.—*Sherman Adams in the Florida Dispatch.*

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